



REF ID: A60777  
**PATENT SPECIFICATION**

**690,863**

*Date of filing Complete Specification : Jan. 12, 1950.*

*Application Date : Sept. 2, 1949. No. 22747/49.*

*Complete Specification Published : April 29, 1953.*

**Index at Acceptance :—Classes 70, E13; and 87(i), B2(b : d3 : f1), B2g(1 : 3), B2h1b.**

**COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.**

**Improvements relating to Tiles of India-Rubber or Rubber Composition.**

I, PERCY OAKLEY, a British Subject, of Driffold Lodge, Driffold, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention has reference to tiles of india-rubber or rubber composition for use as a covering for floors, stairs or walls.

With particular reference to the use of such tiles for covering surfaces made wholly or mainly of concrete or cement, it is found that due to variations in atmospheric temperature or to periods of excessive humidity or to the sweating of concrete or like, there is a tendency for the india-rubber material to buckle and/or rise in spite of the fact that an adhesive fixing was used. Under these conditions the rubber tends to become tacky, gives off an offensive odour and rot sets in as happens when dry rot occurs in wood.

The object of the present invention is to effect improvements in india-rubber tiles in which this disadvantage is avoided or substantially reduced.

According to the present invention, a rectangular, flexible, india-rubber or rubber composition tile having a plain upper surface is provided with several longitudinal ventilating channels extending in a common plane on the lower surface of said tile, a pair of hooks extending along a pair of parallel edges, the one hook being reversed relatively to the other hook and a tongue and a groove respectively on the remaining sides of the tile, whereby a layout formed by arranging the underside of several identical tiles directly on a flat surface with their hooks and tongues and grooves respectively interengaged and interfitted with those of adjoining tiles enables the underside of the

tiles layout to be ventilated by continuous air ducts extending in one direction from one end to the other end of the layout.

Such india-rubber tiles can be produced in various patterns and designs.

In the accompanying drawings, typical examples of a tile and tile assemblies according to the invention are illustrated.

Fig. 1 is a perspective plan view of a tile as seen from one of its sides.

Fig. 2 is a perspective underside view of the tile as seen from another side.

Figs. 3 and 4 are end views of the tile.

Fig. 5 shows in plan how tiles are interlocked and interengaged on assembly.

Referring to Figs. 1—5, a square tile of moulded india-rubber or rubber composition has a plain or patterned surface 1 and an underside formed with channels 2 extending in a common plane. Along one pair of sides, the tile has oppositely directed hooks 3, in that the one hook is presented upwards and the other faces downwards.

On the remaining sides, the tile has a tongue 4 and a groove 5 respectively. Tiles possessing these common features are adapted to be assembled into a covering when the hooks 3 on adjoining tiles are interlocked and the tongues 4 and grooves 5 interengaged with flush joints. The channels 2 are arranged in a common plane and a determined order on the underside of the tiles so that upon assembly the channels 2 combine to form continuous ducts for ventilating, via extreme ends of the assembly, the surface on which the tiles are laid.

The commencement of a tile assembly is illustrated by Fig. 5 in which the central tile has its hooks 3 interlocked with the hooks of identical tiles arranged on each side of it and a tongue 4 and a groove 5 of this central tile interengaged with corresponding parts of upper and lower adjoining identical tiles.

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The flexibility of the tiles makes for convenience in bringing the hooks 3 into engagement. It will be evident that instead of providing a single tongue 4 and a single groove 5 two or more of such interfitting parts may be provided.

What I claim is:—

1. A rectangular, flexible, india-rubber or rubber composition tile having a plain upper surface and several longitudinal channels extending in a common plane on the lower surface of said tile, a pair of hooks, extending along a pair of parallel edges, the one hook being reversed relatively to the other hook and a tongue and a groove respectively on the remaining sides of the tile, whereby a layout formed by arranging the underside of several identical tiles directly on a flat surface with their hooks and tongues and grooves respectively inter-

engaged and interfitted with those of adjoining tiles enables the underside of the tiled layout to be ventilated by continuous air ducts extending in one direction from one end to the other end of the layout.

2. India-rubber tiles substantially as described in the Specification and shown on the accompanying drawings.

Dated this 5th day of January, 1949.

For the Applicant,  
GEORGE FUERY & CO.,

Chartered Patent Agents,  
Newhall Chambers, 8 Newhall Street,  
Birmingham 3.

"Reference has been directed in pursuance of Section 9, subsection (1) of the Patents Act, 1949 to Patent No. 647,812."

#### PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION.

#### Improvements relating to Tiles of India-Rubber or Rubber Composition.

I, PERCY OAKLEY, a British Subject, of Driffold Lodge, Driffold, Sutton Coldfield, Warwickshire, do hereby declare the nature of this invention to be as follows:—

This invention has reference to tiles of india-rubber or rubber composition for use as a floor, stairs or wall covering.

With particular reference to the use of such tiles for covering surfaces made wholly or mainly of concrete or cement, it is found that due to variations in atmospheric temperature or to periods of excessive humidity or to the sweating of concrete or like, there is a tendency for the tiles to buckle and/or rise in spite of the fact that an adhesive fixing was used. Under these conditions, on account of no current of air to take up the moisture, the covering material does rot and cause a smell similar to dry rot in wood.

The object of the present invention is to effect improvements in tiles made of india-rubber or rubber composition in which this disadvantage is avoided or minimised.

According to the present invention, india-rubber or like tiles are provided on the underside with channels extending in a common plane thus to provide when the tiles are laid upon a surface, ducts by which the surface can be ventilated.

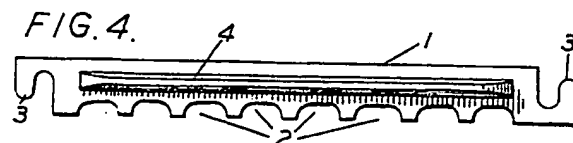
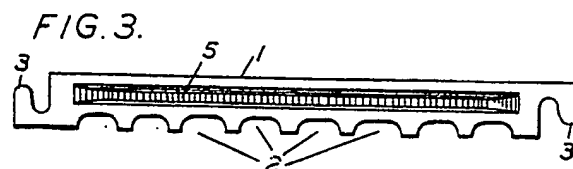
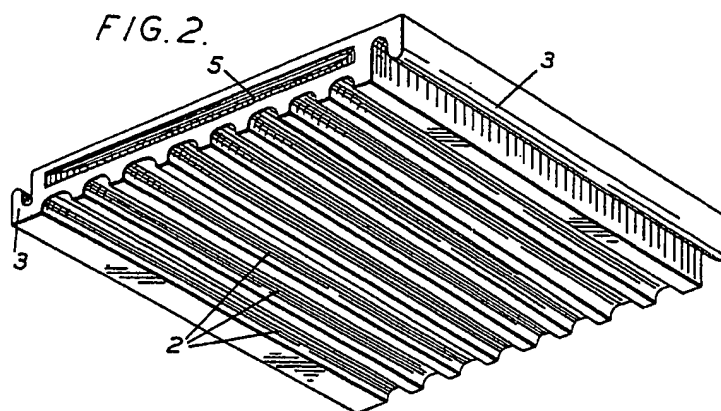
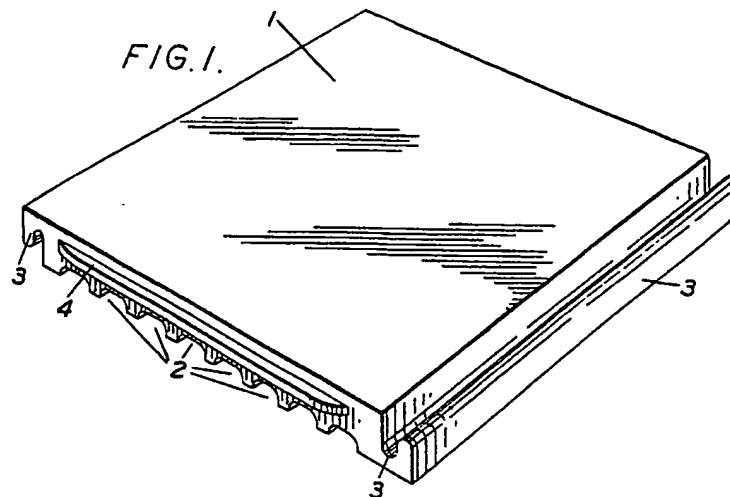
In connection with the provision of rectangular tiles for use in surfacing a concrete floor, one pair of opposite marginal edges are provided with reversely arranged grooves adapted to form interengaging hooks by which adjoining tiles laid in parallel planes may be connected, the other opposite edges having a longitudinally extending tongue or tongues and a groove or grooves respectively whereby tiles laid end to end in the same plane can have a plug and socket engagement.

The underside of these tiles are formed with several grooves, arches or tunnels, so that when several tiles are assembled and interengaged as a floor covering, these grooves or the like combine to form continuous air ducts by which the surface can be ventilated in a very simple and effective manner.

Such india-rubber tiles can be produced in various patterns and designs.

Dated this 25th day of August, 1949.

For the Applicant,  
GEORGE FUERY & CO.,  
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690,863 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

2 SHEETS This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale.

SHEETS 1 & 2

FIG. 5.

